

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Asheville

Office of Economic Development

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Urban Design Recommendations to be Discussed

Recommendations for UDO changes governing new buildings downtown are being discussed by both the Downtown Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission in June. The Downtown Commission will continue their evaluation of the proposed changes at a special meeting on Tuesday, June 1 at 9:00 am in City Hall. The Planning & Zoning Commission will begin their review with a preliminary discussion of the changes at their meeting on Wednesday, June 2 at 5:00 pm. Both meetings will be held in the North Conference room on the first floor. Neither group is expected to take action at these meetings.

The Downtown Commission began reviewing the changes at their April 9 meeting and continued to discuss the changes at the May meeting. Staff expects the Downtown Commission to complete their review and vote on the changes at their regular meeting on June 11. The Planning and Zoning Commission may also spend more than one meeting to review the changes which are technical and somewhat complex. After the Planning and Zoning Commission finishes their review, the proposed changes and the recommendations from both the Downtown Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission will be evaluated by City Council at a work session, date and time to be determined. City Council will vote on the amendments to the UDO only after a public hearing at a regular City Council meeting.

The Downtown Master Plan was adopted by Asheville City Council in May, 2009. Strategy 4 recommended changes to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) governing building form and placement within the Central Business District (CBD). Changes to areas adjacent to the CBD are not under consideration.

An Urban Design subcommittee was appointed by the Downtown Commission in September to review the recommendations in the master plan and to examine how they would be implemented and consider long-term implications. The

subcommittee, which included Downtown Commission members, designers and community members, met 20 times over the period of October to May. The subcommittee finished their work in early May and conveyed their findings to the Downtown Commission.

For more information on the UDO changes recommended by the Downtown Master Plan, contact Alan Glines at aglines@ashevillenc.gov or 828-259-5556.